

CLAIMS

1. A device for use in immobilising animals comprising an elongated probe having a rear end and a front end for insertion into the anal canal of an animal, the probe having first and second electrodes spaced from each other on the outer surface thereof and electrical conductors extending from the electrodes and adapted for connection to an electrical power source.

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2. A device as claimed in claim 1 in which the elongated probe is of right circular cylindrical configuration.

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3. A device as claimed in claim 2 in which the front end is a tapered rounded tip.

4. A device as claimed in either of claims 2 in which the first electrode is of annular configuration and is located near the front end of the probe and the second electrode is of annular configuration and is located near to the first electrode.

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5. A device as claimed in claim 4 in which the first and second electrodes are separated by an annular groove in the probe.

6. A device as claimed in either of claims 4 in which the second electrode extends from a position near the first electrode to the rear end of the probe.

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7. A device as claimed in claim 1 in which the electrodes are stainless steel electrodes.

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8. A device as claimed in claim 1 in which the first electrode is a positive electrode and the second electrode is a negative electrode.

9. A device as claimed in claim 1 in which there is an indicator light at the rear end of the probe.

10. A device as claimed in claim 1 in which the device includes a power source for connection to the electrical conductors, the power source being adapted to supply a pulsed or alternating electrical current to the electrodes.
11. A device as claimed in claim 10 in which the power source supplies an electrical current of between about 250 mA and 400 mA.
12. A device as claimed in 10 in which the power source supplies an electrical current having a potential of between 1 and 11 Volts.
13. A device as claimed in 12 in which the power source supplies an electrical current having a potential of between 2 and 10 Volts.
14. A device as claimed in 10 in which the power source supplies an electrical current having a frequency of between 20 and 50 Hz.
15. A device as claimed in 14 in which the power source supplies an electrical current having a frequency of about 30 Hz.
16. A method of immobilising an animal which includes inserting a probe having a pair of electrodes into the anal canal of the animal and applying an electrical current through the electrodes to the animal.
17. A method of immobilising an animal as claimed in claim 16 in which the electrical current is a pulsed current.
18. A method of immobilising an animal as claimed in claim 17 in which the electrical current has a frequency of between 20 and 50 Hz.

19. A method of immobilising an animal as claimed in claim 18 in which the electrical current has a frequency of 30 Hz.
20. A method of immobilising an animal as claimed in claim 16 in which the electrical current has a potential of between 1 and 11 volts.
21. A method of immobilising an animal as claimed in claim 20 in which the electrical current has a potential of between 2 and 10 volts.
22. A method of immobilising an animal as claimed in claim 16 in which the electrical current is between about 250 and 400 mA.
23. A method of immobilising an animal as claimed in claim 16 in which the animal is an ungulate.

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